

Car language

Car (*Pū*) is the most widely spoken of the Nicobarese languages spoken in the Nicobar Islands of India.

Although related distantly to Vietnamese and Khmer, it is typologically much more akin to nearby Austronesian languages such as Nias and Acehnese, with which it forms a linguistic area.^[3]

Car is a VOS language and somewhat agglutinative.^[4] There is a quite complicated verbal suffix system with some infixes, as well as distinct genitive and "interrogative" cases for nouns and pronouns.^[5]

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Phonology

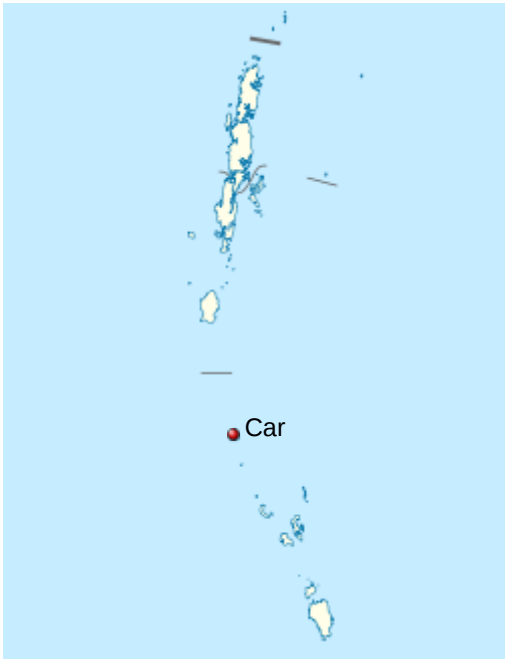
Consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar/</u> <u>Retroflex</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p	t	c	k	ʔ
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Fricative</u>	f v	s			h
<u>Tap</u>		ɾ ɽ			
<u>Approximant</u>		l	j		

- The alveolar flap can typically be pre-stopped. Before a voiceless consonant, its pre-articulation is voiceless as [ʈ ɾ], and elsewhere it is voiced [ɖ ɾ].

Vowels

Car	
<i>Pū</i>	
Pronunciation	[puː]
Native to	India
Region	Nicobar Islands
Native speakers	37,000 (2005) ^[1]
Language family	Austroasiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nicobarese<ul style="list-style-type: none">Car
Writing system	Latin script
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	caq
Glottolog	carn1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/carn1240) ^[2]



	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	i	ɨ	u
<u>Close-mid</u>	e	ɤ	o
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ	ə	ɔ
<u>Open</u>	(æ)	a	

- /æ/ only occurs because of the occurrence of English loanwords.
- Vowel sounds are also typically short when occurring before an /h/.^[6]

References

1. Car (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/caq/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
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3. Cysouw, Michael; Quantitative explorations of the world-wide distribution of rare characteristics, or: the exceptionality of north-western European languages (<http://email.eva.mpg.de/~cysouw/pdf/cysouwDGFS2005.pdf>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090514195944/http://email.eva.mpg.de/~cysouw/pdf/cysouwDGFS2005.pdf>) 2009-05-14 at the Wayback Machine; pp. 11-12
4. WALS: Nicobarese (http://wals.info/languoid/lect/wals_code_nca)
5. Whitehead, Rev. G.; *Dictionary of the Car (Nicobarese) language*; published 1925 by American Baptist Mission Press; pp. xxvi-xxxii
6. Sidwell, Paul (2015). *Car Nicobarese*. *The Handbook of Austroasiatic Languages*: Leiden: Brill. pp. 1231–1240.

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